

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02808

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, XF, US
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SITUATION
IN BEIRUT

SUMMARY: CONSENSUS OF WESTERN FIVE AND UN SECRETARIAT
OFFICIALS IS THAT IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE AND PROBABLY
DAMAGING TO EFFORTS TO RESTORE ORDER IN BEIRUT AS WELL AS
TO ROLE OF UNIFIL IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TO CONVENE SECURITY
COUNCIL MEETING WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE LEBANESE,
SYRIANS, AND THE ARAB GROUP. SC PRESIDENT BARTON (CANADA)
PLANS TO APPROACH KUWAITI AND INDIAN UN
PERMREPS INFORMALLY TO DETERMINE THEIR REACTIONS.
LEBANESE UN MISSION IS REPORTING OUR VIEWS ON POSSIBLE SC
MEETING TO AMB. TUENI AND THE MINISTRY IN BEIRUT. END
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02808 062311Z

SUMMARY.

1. AMB. LEONARD HELD SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK
JULY 6 REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING THE SECURITY
COUNCIL TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT A CEASE-FIRE IN BEIRUT. UN
OFFICIALS (BUFFUM, GUYER, AND JONAH) EXPRESSED SERIOUS
CONCERN THAT ARABS WOULD REBUFF ANY EFFORT TO HAVE THE

SC CALL FOR A CEASE-FIRE AS IN EFFECT SANCTIONING THE PRESENT SITUATION ON THE GROUND: I.E., CONTINUED CHRISTIAN CONTROL OF PARTS OF THE CITY. GUYER AND JONAH NOTED THE SHARP SYRIAN RESPONSE JULY 5 TO THE SYG'S APPEAL AND THE SYRIAN CONTENTION THAT THEY AND THE ADF WERE ACTING IN BEIRUT AT THE REQUEST AND IN SUPPORT OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT UNDER A MANDATE APPROVED BY THE ARAB LEAGUE. THEY ALSO WERE CONCERNED BY THE INEVITABLE ARAB EFFORT TO SHIFT THE FOCUS OF A COUNCIL MEETING TO A CRITICISM OF UNIFIL FOR ITS HANDLING OF THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES IN THE SOUTH, WITH PERHAPS IMPLICATIONS FOR UNIFIL'S MANDATE.

2. UN OFFICIALS FURTHER BELIEVE THAT THE ARABS WOULD TURN AN SC MEETING INTO AN ATTACK AGAINST ISRAELI SUPPORT OF THE PHALANGISTS IN SOUTH LEBANON AND BY EXTENSION INTO AN ATTACK ON US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. WITHOUT ARAB SUPPORT, THEY CONTINUED, THE SOVIETS ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD TAKE A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE AND IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WOULD BE PREPARED TO VETO ANY WESTERN-INITIATED CALL IN THE COUNCIL FOR A CEASE-FIRE IN BEIRUT.

3. AMB. LEONARD SUBSEQUENTLY SPOKE IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON NEW YORK TIME BY TELEPHONE WITH WALDHEIM IN BERN AND WITH UN PERMREP TUENI IN BEIRUT. WALDHEIM ALSO ADVISED AGAINST PROCEEDING WITH AN SC MEETING IN THE ABSENCE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 02808 062311Z

ARAB SUPPORT. TUENI TOLD LEONARD THAT THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT WAS SOMEWHAT QUIETER AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CEASE-FIRE WERE UNDERWAY. HE ASKED FOR TIME BEFORE TRYING TO REACH ANY DECISION ON A POSSIBLE SC MEETING. LEBANESE UN MISOFFS THEN MET WITH LEONARD AT 1600 JULY 6 TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR PLANS AND EXPECTATIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE SC ACTION AND INDICATED THEY WOULD PASS THESE ON TO TUENI AT 1800.

4. IN DISCUSSION AMONG WESTERN FIVE AT USUN, LEONARD SUMMARIZED OUR VIEWS ON POSSIBLE UTILITY OF SC ACTION. UK AND FRENCH REPS REPORTED ON DEMARCHES MADE BY THEIR EMBASSIES IN DAMASCUS ON JULY 5. FRENCH WERE TOLD THAT SYRIANS HAD NO INTENTION OF DISRUPTING LEBANESE UNITY AND WERE SIMPLY REACTING TO CHRISTIAN-INITIATED ATTACKS ON THEM. BRITISH HAD SIMILAR REPORT. WESTERN FIVE DECIDED BEST COURSE OF ACTION WAS FOR SC PRESIDENT BARTON TO CONTACT KUWAITIS AND INDIANS TO SEEK THEIR VIEWS ON POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS OF SC MEMBERS AND/OR A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL. BARTON ALSO WILL TOUCH BASE WITH THE CHINESE. THE CONCLUSION OF THE WESTERN FIVE, AS OF OUR OTHER DISCUSSIONS, WAS THAT LEBANESE AND

SYRIANS WERE THE KEYS TO ANY DECISION TO CONVENE
SC MEETING AND THAT IT WOULD BE POINTLESS AND COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT. LEONARD

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